

From: "hensleyjim" <hensleyjim@roadrunner.com>
To: mvoong@waterboards.ca.gov
Date: 6/17/2009 9:01:34 AM
Subject: FW: Trash from OID etc. at Ormond Beach

Good Morning Mr. Voong, Director;
CA Regional Water Quality Control Board

We as members of Ormond Beach Wetlands Environmental Coalition are rushing to contact you about the deplorable health and environmental conditions of the Ormond Beach Wetlands, lagoons, canals and Oxnard Industrial drains that flow trash filled contaminated water into the Wetlands.

We have been alerted that somehow the Southern California Regional Water Board has not been made aware of toxic cesspool problems that suffers one of our few remaining wetlands areas in California. Please place this issue in your upcoming agenda as an emergency action item. If you wish any of us to testify please advise.

As you can see from the attached photos, the area is an amazing habitat for coastal wildlife and a very attractive area for families to enjoy a day at the beach. The lagoon visually offers a family what might appear to be a safe wading area for small children.

However as far as we know, no agency has been testing the water quality at the Ormond Wetlands and there are no warning signs in Spanish and English foretelling of probably pollution.

Trash from local throwaways, picnickers', homeless is adding to the continual flow of trash from two or three Oxnard farmland and industrial drains that empty into the wetlands. As you can see by the attached photos this trash is a serious detriment to the water quality and has been a long term health hazard to those unaware who take their families to enjoy a day at the beach and lagoon.

Likewise, the estimated 700 thousand tons of toxic heavy metal slag hill that creates a double sized football field approximately sixty feet high and it's large footprint expanding underwater and sinking into the wetlands has been reported leaking contamination. By one EPA report the abandoned smelter and slag hill may harbor radio-isotopic materials that are blending into the local aquifers as well as the tidal action that pulls the toxic substances into the ocean at reach tide.

Several of our local and state organizations have formed an environmental coalition, to start immediate clean up of the water borne trash and restoration of the water ways and wetlands as well as the removal of the smelter and slag hill.

Please see this issue is addressed in your preliminary report of this week's CA Regional Water Quality Control Board meeting. Environmental, wildlife and human health and well being is at stake here. The water needs regular testing, and if contaminated [it looks pretty obvious that severe contamination abounds, when one takes a tour through the area.]

Please allow us to offer you an invitation to take you or some of your representatives on a tour of the deserted Halaco smelter, slag heap, lagoons and waterways. Name any time and some of our environmental coalition members will be happy to meet you at the site and tour you around the area.

Please keep us in your communication list.

Cordially

Jim Hensley, Ormond Beach Wetlands Environmental Coalition
& Deputy District Director "LULAC"
League of United Latin American Citizens
128 Santa Paula Avenue
Channel Islands Beach, CA 93035-4585
o/h; 805-382-7659
c. 805-794-0517
hensleyjim@roadrunner.com

If you wish to be deleted from this list, click on reply and type or paste "PLEASE DELETE"

-----Original Message-----

From: Trevor Smith [mailto:trevor.smith@earthlink.net]
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2009 8:40 AM
To: 'Shirley Birosik'; 'Peter Brand'
Cc: 'hensleyjim'; 'Michael Stubblefield'; 'Rich T. Handley'
Subject: RE: Trash from OID etc. at Ormond Beach

Dear Shirley,

We get a comment in to the board.

Thankyou,

Trevor

-----Original Message-----

From: Shirley Birosik [mailto:SBIROSIK@waterboards.ca.gov]
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2009 8:18 AM
To: Trevor Smith; 'Peter Brand'
Cc: 'hensleyjim'; 'Michael Stubblefield'; 'Rich T. Handley'
Subject: RE: Trash from OID etc. at Ormond Beach

I see there was one other person listed on the original Email who probably didn't get my response to Peter's Email, so here it is below. Additionally, since EPA is the agency dealing with the Superfund (slag heap, etc) issue at Halaco, they should be immediately contacted about the containment issue.

None of the drains in the area are currently listed for trash. The proposed

impaired waters for the current (2008) listing cycle are on our website at [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water_issues/programs/303d/2008_integrated_report_303\(d\)_list.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water_issues/programs/303d/2008_integrated_report_303(d)_list.shtml) . Comments are due by this Wednesday (30 days in advance of the July Board meeting for adoption of the list). The proposed list does not include any trash listing for the Ormond Beach area which I assume means no one sent us any data/information on that topic. There is contact information on the webpage for submitting any information that you feel is relevant to out updating the list, but do it quick.

Shirley A. Birosik
Watershed Coordinator
CA Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region 320 W. 4th St.,
Suite 200 Los Angeles, CA 90013
213-576-6679
sbirosik@waterboards.ca.gov

>>> "Trevor Smith" <trevor.smith@earthlink.net> 6/11/2009 4:44 PM >>>
Dear Shirley,

Please direct us to the most expediant way to clean up and maintain the wetlands and streams that surround the Halaco plant at the end of Perkins. Along with LULAC, CAUSE and several other environmental and community groups we are concerned that the wetland area is not being maintained. We have pictures of trash and debris.

We also have pictures that show the EPA Superfund managed slag heap in contact with the coastal lagoon and the Oxnard Industrial Drain.

I am sure that Jim Hensley will forward the pictures and more information to you.

Sincerely,

Trevor Smith
Conservation Chair
Los Padres Chapter Sierra Club

From: Peter Brand [mailto:brand@scc.ca.gov]
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2009 3:28 PM
To: 'Trevor Smith'
Cc: Shirley Birosik; Rich T. Handley
Subject: Trash from OID etc. at Ormond Beach

Trevor Smith wrote to Peter: "On another subject; who is responsible for cleaning up the waterway and lagoon surrounding HALACO? There is alot of trash floating around."

Trevor,

I'll bet Shirley Birosik of the Water Board knows the answer. She has discussed the possibility of a trash TMDL for these drainages. If not, Shirley will set me straight as she usually does.

Please include me in your response.

Peter

Jim Hensley, Deputy District Director "LULAC"
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o/h; 805-382-7659
c. 805-794-0517
hensleyjim@roadrunner.com

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CC: SBIROSIK@waterboards.ca.gov; carmen@coastalalliance.com;
godwinc@earthlink.net; beatriz@coastalalliance.com;
rcox@pacificenvironment.org; . . .